Conversion of handlooms into powerlooms

3484. SHRI S.ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch any scheme for rendering financial and infrastructural assistance for conversion/ replacement of handlooms into powerlooms in the country particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof including target fixed for conversion/ replacement of handlooms into powerlooms;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether it is essential to strengten powerlooms to compete with China in the field of textiles; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken thereon including replacing of handlooms by powerlooms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Handlooms constitute a timeless fact of the rich cultural heritage of India. Tradition of weaving by hand is a part of the country's cultural ethos. The strength of Handloom lies in introducing innovative design, which cannot be replicated by the Powerloom Sector. As an economic activity, the handloom sector occupies a place second only to agriculture in providing livelihood to the people. A number of schemes are being implemented for promotion and development of handloom sector. However, keeping in view the growing competitiveness in the textile industry both in the national and internatonal markets and the free trade opportunities emerging in post MFA environment and with a view to develop a strong, competitive and vibrant handloom sector for providing sustainable employment for economic development of the nation, following schemes were introduced in the handloom sector during the year 2005-06:—

1. Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme.
2. Health Insurance Scheme.
3. Mahatama Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana.

During the Budget speech 2006-07, the Finance Minister hasannounced that yarn depots will be established in different parts of the qountry to ensure uninterrupted supply of yarn to weavers. A'handloom' mark will be launched for brand development. A scheme similar to TUFS will be introduced for the handloom sector to provide interest subsidy on term loans.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(ej Government has launched Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries including Powerloom Sector in order to facilitate modernization of textile industry.

Kosa Palan in Chhattisgarh

†3485. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been forwarded for sericulture (Kosa palan) in Raigarh, Bilaspur, Jashpur and Dhamtari districts of State of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the proposal would be cleared; and

(d) the reasons for delay in clearance of proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Directorate of Sericulture, Government of Chhattisgarh has submitted a project proposal "A Special Tasar Development Project under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana" to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for funding as special project. The project has been drawn at a cost of Rs. 14.24 crores, involving central share of Rs. 10.68 crores and the State's share of Rs. 3.56 crores. The project is proposed to be implemented over a period of two years 2005-06 and 2006-07 in the selected blocks of Jashpur, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Dhamtari districts. The project envisages development of 2000 ha. of systematic tasar food plantation, establishment of 4 Tasar Cocoon Storing Centres and 12 reeling sheds, training of 2,632 beneficiaries and raising of medicinal plantation for additional source of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.